



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

*Where passionate gardeners meet to share knowledge and learn from each other.*

socalhort.org

NEWSLETTER

February 2019

## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, February 14**

Friendship Auditorium  
3201 Riverside Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90027



**Socializing: 7:00 pm**

**Meeting begins: 7:30 pm**

## SCHS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

*We have new members  
for the new year!*

Kelly de la Peza  
Annette Gutierrez

**www.socalhort.org**

## SHARING SECRETS

For February, please tell us:

*Do you have any favorite books  
or internet resources  
to recommend for advice on  
winter tree-pruning?*

Reply at: [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)  
or e-mail your response to:  
[gardensbysabine@aol.com](mailto:gardensbysabine@aol.com)

by Monday, February 18

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## Designing with Palms for Dry Climates

February brings us a presentation by Jason Dewees, the horticulturist and palm expert at Flora Grubb Gardens in San Francisco, and East West Trees in Fallbrook. He has consulted on palm collections at various Bay Area botanical gardens, trained volunteers and docents on the palm family, grown thousands of palms from seed, consulted with gardeners, landscape architects and designers on using palms in the landscape, and lectured

on palms and garden design. Jason joined the Northern California Chapter of the International Palm Society as their youngest member in 1986 and offers

a West Coast point of view on palms.

In Jason's words, "The charismatic, iconic palm appeals to all the senses: with its wind-rustled fronds, curving shadows, textured trunks, beeswarmed flowers, and sustaining fruits, which combine to create an intoxicating atmosphere. Among the earliest cultivated fruit trees, the palm

is almost an unconscious companion on loan from Eden. Yet the power of palms – tropical vacation tree, signpost for your own little piece of heaven – can drown out their many aesthetic and practical contributions to garden design."

"Diverse in origin and form, palms are a tremendous garden resource hiding in plain sight. The secret about palms that garden designers in California are recognizing is that among the 2,500 species of this diverse plant family are varieties for nearly every landscape need."

Jason will talk about designing with palms, with a particular emphasis on those that work best in Southern California, and show beautiful photos by Caitlin Atkinson taken in their travels together to more than 70 gardens, parks, and habitats in five states. Her photos can also be found in Jason's book, *Designing with Palms* (Timber Press, 2018), copies of which will be available to purchase, along with select palms.

We are pleased to offer a horticultural expedition into gardening with palms on a winter's evening. We hope to see you all at this Valentine's Day meeting!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS & EVENTS

### COFFEE at MARCH MEETING

We need a volunteer (or two) to take over setting up the coffee and refreshment table for our March meeting. Eric and Ann Brooks, our member volunteers who perform this task every month, will not be in attendance. It will be a temporary assignment and there is no cost involved. If you're available, please contact Steve Gerischer at [sglarkspur@aol.com](mailto:sglarkspur@aol.com) or (323) 257-3629 to coordinate picking up the SCHS coffee supplies. *Thank you!*

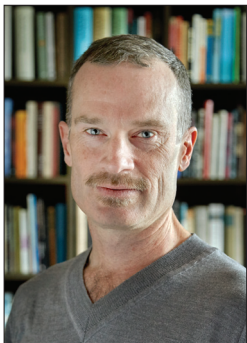
### PLANT FORUM

In January, we resumed presentation of our monthly Plant Forum in which members bring in plants to exhibit. These are recorded in the Green Sheets, which are compiled several times a year, and printed as a supplement to the newsletter. Please consider bringing something to share once in a while - we look forward to seeing what you're growing!

### SCHS MEMBERSHIP

We are always looking to grow our organization and encourage members to invite friends, colleagues or anyone that might be interested in the world of horticulture, to come to a meeting. Use one of your two annual passes and your guest may attend for free, otherwise it's only a \$5 fee - applicable towards membership if they join that evening!

Photo courtesy of speaker.



Our January meeting brought us horticulture professor Jennifer Hinostroza from Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC), who spoke to us about houseplants and best practices for growing them in various environments. While she provided some tips and techniques she teaches in her Interior Landscaping course at Mt. SAC, her focus was on light requirements, watering, appropriate plant choices for different light levels, temperature requirements, and the benefits of having plants indoors.

Jennifer began by reminding us that most houseplants, come from tropical or sub-tropical regions that have warm temperatures and high humidity - usually with no variation from day to day. They don't require seasonal change to set flowers or seed, and as houseplants are often shorter lived than their wild counterparts. Historically, having interior plants was a sign of wealth, because they were associated with travel and exploration, but today we keep houseplants for a variety of other reasons.

Studies have demonstrated physical and psychological benefits of having plants in our daily environments. They provide air filtration to remove indoor pollutants (a 6" pot or bigger for 100 square feet of floor space is enough), increase humidity, reduce stress in the workplace, and even build feelings of self-worth, because studies have shown that humans have a hard-wired need to care for living things. And, of course, plants provide aesthetic pleasure as well.

Jennifer explained that foliage plants are the most common type of houseplants commercially available and that flowering types are often temporary residents - typically brought in for an occasion or as a seasonal addition. Bromeliads fall

somewhere in-between: their blooms will last for 6 to 8 weeks, but they will not rebloom if living indoors. Cacti and succulents can be grown indoors, but require a lot of light. She explained that in commercial landscapes, flowering plants are replaced every 2 - 4 weeks (so they always look good), and the majority of flowering plants we see indoors are actually better-suited to living outdoors.

The key to successfully growing plants indoors (or on balconies) is to control and improve the environmental conditions that impact them the most: sufficient light,



Photo: Sabine Steinmetz

good drainage, slow-release nutrients, consistent temperatures (fluctuations can be deadly), and humidity. In nature, they are accustomed to 85%-90% humidity vs. the 6% typically found in homes. She also noted that because plants are exposed to a variety of light sources indoors, they may initially suffer leaf drop as they adjust to their new environment. Additionally, their foliage might "pale out" because their ability to produce pigments is significantly lowered when living indoors.

Outdoor plants that live in containers on a patio or balcony do best when their natural living conditions are simulated as closely as possible. Transplanting them from black nursery containers into clay or foam pots as soon as possible will help prevent their soil from getting too hot, and providing some shade is beneficial. Light intensity must also be considered -

too much will kill chloroplasts, bleaching out leaves or causing them to drop, while too little will inhibit photosynthesis, compromising the plant's health. (A PDF of Jennifer's hand-out about plants for varying light conditions can be found at [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org).)

Ultimately, the goal should be for plants to maintain on a "linear" level, according to Jennifer. She recommends buying plants at the size you would like them to be, instead of repotting them frequently until they "grow" to a certain size. If they are constantly growing they are probably getting too much light. Indoor plants are not meant to go through seasonal growth and pruning phases like their outdoor cousins. Also, avoid bringing unhealthy plants home, as pest problems can easily be spread. Too little or too much water can both have disastrous results, with overwatering being the most common cause of death. Over-fertilization is the second. Keeping temperatures at 70 - 80 degrees is best, as too much fluctuation is difficult for plants to process.

Jennifer's final recommendations were to select plants based on whether they will survive in your living conditions, because factors such as light, temperature and humidity are not always easily controlled. She closed with a short list of easy maintenance plants that do well in a variety of conditions (see [www.socalhort.org](http://www.socalhort.org)), and a brief question and answer session. The presentation was comprehensive, and with the helpful tips provided, perhaps the process of growing indoor plants successfully will become less of a mystery to those who have always considered houseplants to be too much of a challenge.

✂ Sabine Steinmetz

## SHARING SECRETS

Our question for January was:

*Tell us about your successes and struggles with houseplants, and what your favorites are.*



*Calatheas* do well for me, and I like the variety of foliage patterns.

- Kathy Musial

Fungus gnats! Ugh. I've tried everything and one year later, they are still all over the house! Someone told me about beneficial nematodes, so I will try those next...

- John Christofferson

Fool-proof plants I have grown include: *Aspidistra*, *Clivia*, *Sanseveria* and of course, spider plants (*Chlorophytum*). Also, the "piggyback plants" have done well for me.

- Shirley Marneus

My most successful indoor plants in my very low light abode are the ZZ plant, *Zamioculcas zamifolia*, and in indirect light, the satin pothos, *Scindapsus pictus*. My pothos live in the bathroom next to the shower and are doing really well!

- Ruth Gallardo

*Thanks to all of you for sharing this month!*



*Please contact location(s) to confirm listed events, and for a full schedule.*

*Events are free with admission unless otherwise indicated.*

**Locations are listed by Zip Code.**

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (CNPS)**  
L.A./Santa Monica Mtns Chapter / 1st Utd. Methodist  
1008 11th Street, Santa Monica 90403  
818-782-9346 lacnps.org

Tuesday, 2/12, 7:30pm. Oak Survival Through Drought, Fire & Bad Beetles, with Rosi Dagit, Senior Conservation Biologist for Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM**  
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia 91007  
626.821.4623 arboretum.org

Saturday, 2/2, 9am-5pm. Pacific Rose Society Annual Auction, with 100+ hard-to-find, unusual, new and direct-from-growers roses. For info. call: 626-821-3222.

Wednesday, 2/6, 1:30-3:00pm. Bare Root Planting & Selection with L.A. County Arboretum Plant Info Consultant Frank McDonough. Free, but registration required: online at arboretum.org/calendar, or by calling the Education Dept.

Saturday, 2/16, 10am. Fruitstitute Workshop: Intro to Backyard Orcharding & Fruit Tree Pruning with founder of Fruitstitute, Joanna Glovinsky. Learn best practices and how to successfully grow your own fruit. Free, but registration required -- online at arboretum.org/calendar, or by calling the Education Dept.

Saturday, 2/23, 10am-noon. Raised Bed Gardening with Farmscape. Workshop covers right soil for raised beds, manual and automatic irrigation, planning, and seasonal growing tips to help you achieve abundant harvests. \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Register online at arboretum.org/calendar.



**DESCANSO GARDENS**  
1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada 91011  
818.949.7980 descansogardens.org

Saturday, 2/9/19, 5:30-8:30pm. Night Garden: Campfire Stories. After-hours tour with guest speakers talking about science, nature, people's relationships to plants, and the world around you. Hands-on activities, and refreshments available. \$5 members/\$15 non-members. Register online, in person at Descanso Visitor Center, or by phone.



**HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino 91108  
626.405.2100 huntington.org

Saturday, 2/9, 1-5pm, & Sunday, 2/10, 10am-5pm, 47th Annual Camellia Show & Sale in Brody Botanical Center, co-sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society. View exhibits and 100s of blooms competing for honors. Shop for camellias and get expert tips on care and cultivation.

Thursday, 2/14, 2:30pm, Ahmanson Room, Brody Botanical Center. 2nd Thursday Garden Talk & Plant Sale: Richtersveld Revisited: Winter-Growing Succulents slide presentation with John Trager, curator of desert collections at The Huntington. Learn about South Africa's Western Cape and Northern Cape provinces; the native habitat of many winter-growing succulents found in the Desert Garden. Free; no reservations required.

Saturday & Sunday, 2/23 & 2/24, 10am-5pm, Brody Botanical Center. Bonsai-a-Thon is an annual event presented by SoCal bonsai masters, and includes exhibits, demos, prizes, a "bonsai bazaar," and a live auction at 3pm each day. Proceeds go to support the Golden State Bonsai Collection at The Huntington.



**THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION**  
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley 91352  
818.768.1802 theodorepayne.org

Saturday, 2/2, 1:30-4:00pm. Right Plant, Right Place with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects. Learn about local plant communities and how to assess your garden site, including climate, soil, sunlight and space. Beginners' class and prerequisite for TPF's 3-Part California Native Garden Design Course. Members \$25, Non-members \$35. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/right-plant-right-place-with-lili-singer-registration-52066884453>

Saturday, 2/9, 9am-12noon. Propagating California Native Plants with Jordan Isken, TPF's Production Manager. Learn vegetative propagation basics using native plant species. Start cuttings or divisions in this hands-on session, and leave with a flat of starts! Limit: 10 students. Members \$50, Non-members \$60. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/propagating-california-native-plants-with-jordan-isken-tickets-50454889934>

Saturday, 2/9, 1:30-3:30pm. Plant This, Not That: Native Alternatives to Common Garden Plants with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects. Learn which California native can be used in your garden in place of familiar non-natives. Members \$20, Non-members \$30. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-plant-this-not-that-native-alternatives-to-common-garden-plants-tickets-53754336668>

Saturday, 2/16, 9am-12noon. Irrigation Practices for Native Plant Gardens with Tim Becker, TPF's Director of Horticulture. Learn about irrigation principles, techniques and equipment for native plants, with practical examples, a demo of TPF's irrigation system, plus a Q & A session. Bring hat and water. Members \$30, Non-members \$40. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/irrigation-practices-for-native-plant-gardens-with-tim-becker-tickets-52730010882>

Saturday, 2/16, 1:30-3:30pm. Native Plants for the Birds with Lili Singer, TPF's Director of Special Projects, and Steve Gerischer of Larkspur Garden Design. Includes an illustrated lecture on turning your garden into an avian paradise of California native plants, handouts on flora for songbirds and hummingbirds, and Q&A time. Members \$25, Non-members \$35. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-native-plants-for-the-birds-with-lili-singer-steve-gerischer-tickets-53481423377>

Sunday, 2/17, 10am-12noon. Sunday in the Garden with Jon and Susan Joyce. Note: Class will be held at a private residence in Granada Hills. Attendees will receive the location of this large five-year-old landscape after registering. Notable features include a shade structure with a native grape trellis, a dry creek, and raised veggie beds. Light refreshments will be served. Limit: 30. Design by FormLA Landscaping. Members \$30, Non-members \$40. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-in-the-garden-joyce-tickets-54174891559>



**RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN**  
1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711  
909.625.8767 rsabg.org

Saturday, 2/2, 10-11am. Pruning: How, When & Why. Learn correct pruning practices for California native plants at Grow Native Nursery. \$5 general public. Register at <https://11213.blackbaudhosting.com/11213/Pruning-How-When-and-Why>.

Saturday, 2/16, 10-11am. Watering: How, When & Why. Learn watering practices for native California gardens at Grow Native Nursery. \$5 general public. Register at <https://11213.blackbaudhosting.com/11213/Watering-How-When-and-Why>



**SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN**  
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024  
760.436.3036 sdbgarden.org

Saturday, 2/9, 11am-2pm. Bees in the Garden with instructor Kristin Heggem. Learn about bee-friendly plants, beehive placement and garden design in support of backyard beekeeping. Leave with a list of bee-friendly plants. Members \$30, non-members \$36. Fee includes materials. Register by February 2 at <https://apm.activecommunities.com/sandiegobotanicgarden/Home>

Saturday, 2/23, 10-11:30am. Orchid Kokedama. Learn about this Japanese living art form where moss is used as a container for a plant in a hands-on workshop with instructor Kodema Forest. Members \$18, non-members \$22. \$40 per-student fee covers all supplies. Pay instructor on day of class. Register by February 9 at: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/sandiegobotanicgarden/Home>



**FULLERTON ARBORETUM**  
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831  
657.278.3407 fullertonarboretum.org

Sunday, 2/6, 1pm. Hike for Tykes. Have your little ones attend this classroom-style program where they will "hike" to different habitat stations set up with bio facts, props, and live animals. Ages 3-5 years old. Cost: \$13.

Tuesday, 2/12, 1pm. Unusual Vegetables & Fruits. Expert gardener Yvonne Savio will discuss vegetables and fruits, not commonly, but easily grown in Southern California. \$20/members; \$25/non-members.

Thursday, 2/21, 9am. Beginner Bonsai. Attend this workshop and receive a bonsai tree, basic pot, soil, instructions on care and maintenance, plus history on the art of bonsai. \$20/members; \$25/non-members.

Yvonne Savio

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are regularly held at Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles, 90027

-  February 14 - Jason Dewees, horticulturist, palm expert and author, will talk about "Designing with Palms"
-  March 14 - Mike Evans, owner of Tree of Life Nursery will speak about California native plants
-  April 11 - Speaker Matt Candeias, author of the popular *In Defense of Plants* blog (Presentation topic TBA)
-  May 9 - Garden expert and author, Nan Sterman, presents a program based on her landscape design book, *Hot Color, Dry Garden*

## GARDEN QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Love is a flower,  
you gotta let it grow."*

- John Lennon



**Steven Gerischer** - President, Oral History Committee, PR  
**John Schoustra** - Vice President, Field-Trip Committee, Finance Committee, Plant Raffle, Plant Sales at meetings  
**Laura Bauer** - Treasurer, Finance Committee, Website Committee, HOTY Event Committee, Voicemail  
**Pat Steen** - Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Greeter  
**Carol Aronson** - Field Trip & Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees, Program Committee  
**Carol Bornstein** - Program Committee  
**Aprille Curtis** - Social Media Committee, Plant Forum supplies  
**Fleur Nooyen** - Program Committee  
**Steven Ormenyi** - Finance Committee, Program Committee  
**Yoav Paskowitz** - Finance Committee, Oral History Committee, Website Committee, Newsletter Copy Editor  
**Yvonne Savio** - Horticultural Happenings, PR, Field Trip and Coffee-in-the-Garden Committees  
**Lili Singer** - Board Nomination Committee, PR, Archives, Social Media Committee  
**Sabine Steinmetz** - Newsletter Editor, Sharing Secrets  
**Jill Vig** - Coffee-in-the-Garden Committee, Oral History Committee, Special Projects

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**Next deadline: Monday, February 18** (for March newsletter)  
 Please contribute an article or information of interest.



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